

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

Thursday, January 4, 1990

Following an invocation by James G. Adams, Jr. and dinner at the Log House Restaurant the meeting was called to order by President Westerfield at 7:29 p.m. The roll call revealed thirty members present plus one guest. The guest of Robert C. Baker was Mr. Andrea Celari, an exchange student from Italy. Requests for excused absences were presented by William T. Turner, Marshall Butler, Peter C. Macdonald, Marvin D. Denison, William M. Rowlett, Robert C. Baker, Hal King, Mike G. Herndon, and George W. Engler, with all of these requests being approved.

Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The Secretary then read a letter from Martin Standard relating to his illness, necessitating the exchange with Wendell H. Rorie relative to the program for this date. A letter was also read from Robert C. Cayce expressing his regrets at not being able to accept membership into the Society and a letter from William A. Bell was read, indicating his acceptance of membership into the Society. The Membership Committee, chaired by Mike G. Herndon, then placed before the members the nomination of one prospect to be voted on at the February meeting.

President Westerfield then called for the stated program.

Wendell H. Rorie, for his thirteenth paper to the Society, again went above and beyond the call of duty by traveling to the far reaches of the earth to do research for his paper. This time it was to Paris and London where he took a brief look at history and current events and apparently did a lot of other current research for a paper entitled, "Reflections On Revolutions" From an English Pub. There was reference to a few notable revolutions, both historical and current, in various parts of the world but it appeared that most of the research was with reference to the history of and a current revolution in the character of the English pub. It was not fully clear just how much personal participation the author gave to some of his research but he did end his paper with a quote from the grandson of Sigmund Freud: "It is not true that giving up drinking will make your life longer; it merely gives you the feeling that it will never end."

Edwin Morton White presented his paper entitled "The Cost of Crime is High." In this well researched and presented paper the author first covered the history of ways in which many societies have dealt with criminal behaviors. References were made to many forms of punishment ranging from often brutal torture to death. It was pointed out that even the forms of capital punishment have

ranged from instant death to slow, agonizing means of execution. Reference was also made in this review of various ways that societies have also attempted to reform or change the behaviors of criminals. It was then noted that in the 1800's there was a gradual transition from the more corporeal forms of punishment to the concept of imprisonment. The paper then discussed different forms of imprisonment and various ways that prison systems have been run in different societies and at different times. The author then discussed the evolution and present state of our current prison system dilemma which, in part, includes overcrowding and excessive costs. It was pointed out that these two problems continue to escalate and that so far no one seems to have come up with any satisfactory solutions to help solve these problems.

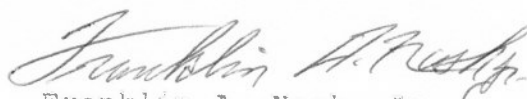
Following a five minute break comments on each of the papers were made by ten members with these comments being followed by rebuttals from each of the authors.

The Secretary then announced the program for the February 1 meeting:

Paul K. Turner  
Edward H. Higgins, III

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Franklin A. Nash, Jr.  
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

Thursday, February 1, 1990

Following the invocation by Thomas W. Westerfield and dinner at the Log House Restaurant the meeting was called to order by President Westerfield at 7:20 p.m. The roll call revealed twenty-eight (28) members present. Requests for excused absences were presented by Bobby H. Freeman, Robert B. Sivley, Richard C. Brasher, George H. Byars, Thomas L. Riley, J. Brooks Major, and Charles L. Tilley, Jr., and all of the requests were approved.

Minutes of the January 4 meeting were read and approved. The Membership Committee then placed before the members the name of one prospect for vote and Ken Powers was approved for membership. A letter will be sent to Mr. Powers informing him of this decision. A report from the By-Laws Committee was given during which it was indicated that their recommendation regarding a possible change in by-laws relative to the position of honorary membership was that no amendment be made. A vote by the members present for this meeting approved that recommendation and there is, therefore, still no official provision for the status of honorary membership.

President Westerfield then called for the stated program:

Paul K. Turner presented a paper entitled "Right To Bear Arms." The author presented statistics and opinions on the often discussed and usually heated debate relative to the question of regulating the possession and use of firearms. Current differences in the positions of the Federal Government and of the Commonwealth of Kentucky relative to such regulations were presented and there were comments and statistics referring to the question of which kinds of weapons need to be regulated. References were made to the more recent emphasis on assault weapons as well as to the more long-term question of handguns. In reviewing the dangers of the handgun an important statistic relative to the private use of handguns pointed out that for every intruder killed trying to enter a home, forty-three (43) family members and acquaintances die. It was suggested that regardless of the regulations involving the ownership of weapons, there certainly should be more regulations making the home gun-owner more responsible for the weapon. It was finally suggested that if any headway is to be made both sides of the issue must consider the problem relative to all levels and areas where the weapons are found, recognizing differences between accidental deaths in a home and deliberate killings by hard-core criminals and drug dealers.

The second paper of the evening was presented by Edward H. Higgins, III and was entitled "The Demise of the Neighborhood Grocery Store." In a nostalgic and philosophical flashback the author reflected on a time when the neighborhood grocery store was more than just a supplier of food and other household items but would also at times provide a place for social contacts such as when high school students would gather at a nearby grocery for lunch as an alternative to the cafeteria. The paper focused on the changes that have evolved in the character and size of the grocery from the small neighborhood store to what the author termed the "modern mega-market." Although the focus of this topic related to a history of Hopkinsville, the paper was reflective not only of changes in local groceries but also of changes in lifestyles throughout our country.

Following a five minute break comments on each of the papers were presented by fourteen (14) of the members present, after which each author presented his rebuttal.

The secretary announced the program for the March 1 meeting:

Martin Standard  
Peter C. Macdonald

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin A. Nash, Jr.  
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

Thursday, March 1, 1990

Following an invocation by J. Brooks Major and dinner at the Log House Restaurant the meeting was called to order by President Westerfield at 7:37 p.m. The roll call revealed twenty-seven (27) members present. Requests for excused absences were presented by Martin Standard, Peter C. Macdonald, Robert M. Farleigh, III, Edwin Morton White, Paul D. Guffey, and William M. Rowlett, with all of the requests being approved.

Minutes of the February 1 meeting were read and approved. The Secretary then read a letter from C. Kenneth Powers accepting the invitation to membership in the Society. This now brings the membership to thirty-nine (39) members. The Membership Committee, chaired by Mike G. Herndon, then submitted the name of one other person for consideration for membership, with the indication that this person would be voted on at the April meeting. President Westerfield then commissioned the Nominating Committee to have the nominations for next year's officers also ready for vote at the April meeting. The members present were also asked if they wanted the open meeting to be held again at the Country Club this year and the vote was affirmative.

President Westerfield then called for the stated program.

Martin Standard presented his paper entitled, "Preparing Your Family To Survive in the Coming Economy." The author began by presenting some serious thoughts about the possibilities of a serious decline in our economy and other factors that could result in the loss of jobs of those present and of their children. After a few examples of current job losses following companies being bought out or entering bankruptcy the author presented a fascinating history of his own personal experience of working his way up in the job market during the depths of the Great Depression. The theme of the advice from his experience was that no matter how qualified a person may be for a particular job, it is important to be qualified for more than one job and to be able to convince an employer that one can be the most versatile person available and then be willing to couple that with a lot of hard work. The author also encouraged those present to make every effort to pass this advice on to their children and grandchildren.

Peter C. Macdonald presented a paper entitled, "Happy Birthday, Bill of Rights." After a few historical comments on the addition of the Bill of Rights and amendments to the original Constitution, the author discussed ways that these affect the

Criminal Justice System, and how many Americans have difficulty accepting the fact that these rights apply to all citizens. He then discussed at length the evolution of the Bill of Rights from 1791 to the present, focusing primarily on the involvement of the American Civil Liberties Union in the evolution of these rights and the ACLU's efforts to uphold these rights. The author concluded in part by pointing out that the Bill of Rights has been a constantly evolving document and will continue to be so, not as to its language, but as to its interpretation.

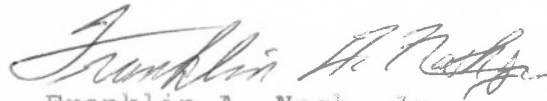
Following a five minute break comments on each of the papers were made by seven of the members with these comments then being followed by rebuttals from each of the authors.

The Secretary then announced the program for the April 5 meeting:

Robert M. Fairleigh, III  
Robert C. Baker

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Franklin A. Nash, Jr.  
Secretary/Treasurer